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WASHINGTON POST
30 APRIL 1983

Justice Dept. Aide Reports 71 Leaks of Classified Data

A Justice Department official said yesterday that 71 leaks of classified information had been reported to the Criminal Division in the past three years.

Deputy Assistant Attorney General Richard K. Willard said he compiled the information in the wake of testimony at a House hearing Thursday by the director of the government-wide Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO), Steven Garfinkel.

The administration has claimed that national security leaks have become "a routine, daily occurrence in the United States," but Garfinkel said that only about half a dozen

unauthorized disclosures had been reported to his office in the three years he has been there.

Willard agreed yesterday that there had been poor compliance with ISOO. He said he hoped that President Reagan's anti-leaks directive last month, which requires all federal employees to take polygraph tests if asked to do so in the course of a leak investigation, would lead to an improvement.

Willard said yesterday that officials in the Criminal Division informed him that the 71 instances were all leaks to the media and did not purport to include surreptitious disclosures to enemy agents.